

MAT-8668US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: To Be Assigned
Applicant: H. Kobayashi et al.
Filed: Herewith
Title: NETWORK CONNECTION APPARATUS AND NETWORK CONNECTION
SWITCHING METHOD
TC/A.U.:
Examiner:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of the references listed on the 1449 form, other than U.S. patents, is enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

The following references are not in the English language:

- 1) JP 2003-46539
- 2) JP 7-264233
- 3) JP 2000-324154
- 4) JP 2001-168899

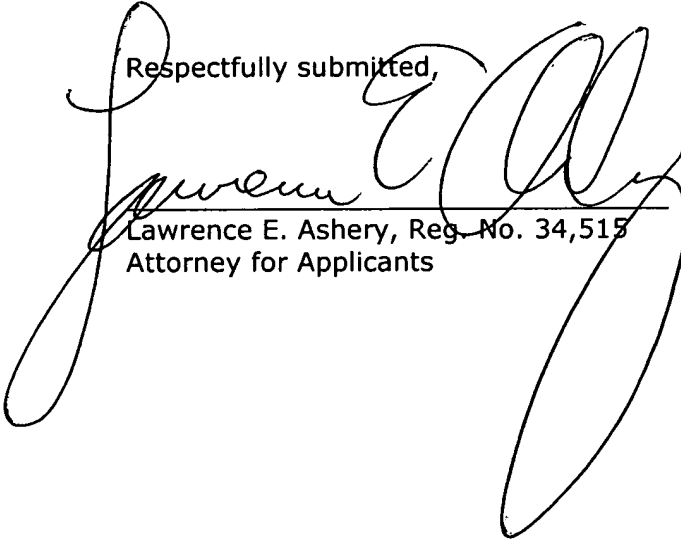
References 1) to 4) include English language abstracts.

Reference 2) is not in the English language, but a "concise explanation" under 37 CFR Section 1.98(a)(3) is set forth in the background portion of the above specification on page 4.

Reference 1) was cited in a search report by a foreign Patent Office in a patent application corresponding to the above-identified patent application. A copy of this search report, which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office, is transmitted herewith. MPEP 609 IIIA(3), second paragraph.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dlm
Enclosures: PTO Form 1449
(5) References
Search Report

Dated: March 3, 2005

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(610) 407-0700

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Kathleen Libby

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Substitute for Form 1449B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	H. Kobayashi et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket No.	MAT-8668US

SHEET 2 of 2

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		S. Knight et al., "RFC 2338 Virtual Router Redundancy Protocol", 1998.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		International Search Report corresponding to International Application No. PCT/JP2004/001638 dated May 25, 2004.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

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